

Marked-Up Copy of Amended Claims:

4. (Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule consisting of a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:

(a) a nucleotide sequence that encodes a polypeptide comprising the [an] amino acid sequence of [shown in] SEQ ID NO:2;

[(b) a nucleotide sequence that encodes of an allelic variant of an amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:2, wherein said nucleotide sequence hybridizes under stringent conditions to the opposite strand of a nucleic acid molecule shown in SEQ ID NOS:1 or 3;

(c) a nucleotide sequence that encodes an ortholog of an amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:2, wherein said nucleotide sequence hybridizes under stringent conditions to the opposite strand of a nucleic acid molecule shown in SEQ ID NOS:1 or 3;

(d) a nucleotide sequence that encodes a fragment of an amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:2, wherein said fragment comprises at least 10 contiguous amino acids; and]

(b) a nucleotide sequence consisting of SEQ ID NO:1;

(c) a nucleotide sequence consisting of SEQ ID NO:3; and

(d) [(e)] a nucleotide sequence that is [the complement of] completely complementary to a nucleotide sequence of (a)-[(d)](c).

8. (Amended) A nucleic acid vector comprising the [a] nucleic acid molecule of claim [5] 4.

13. (Amended) A method for detecting the presence of a nucleic acid molecule of claim [5] 4 in a sample, said method comprising contacting the sample with an oligonucleotide comprising at least 20 contiguous

nucleotides that hybridizes to said nucleic acid molecule under stringent conditions, wherein the stringent condition is hybridization in 6X sodium chloride/sodium citrate (SSC) at about 45°C, followed by one or more washes in 0.2 X SCC, 0.1% SDS at 50-65°C, and

determining whether the oligonucleotide binds to said nucleic acid molecule in the sample.

REMARKS

By way of the above amendments, claims 1-3, 5-7, 10-12, and 14-23 have been canceled as being redundant or being directed to non-elected subject matter, claims 4, 8 and 13 have been amended, and claims 24-28 have been added. As such, claims 4, 8-9, 13 and 24-28 are presently pending.

Support for the amendments to the claims and the newly added claims can be found at least in the old claims and in Figures 1-3. The amendments to the claims and the newly added claims add no new subject matter and their entry is respectfully requested.

Applicants respectfully assert that the claims are in condition for examination on the merits.

Respectfully submitted,

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